

SENATE BILL NO. 997

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations

on January 31, 2023)

(Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Mason)

A BILL to amend and reenact § 28.2-542 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Oyster Replenishment Fund.

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 28.2-542 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 28.2-542. Oyster Replenishment Fund.**

All oyster resource user fees collected by the Commission and any gifts, donations, grants, bequests, and other funds received in support of oyster recycling and replenishment and all funds appropriated for such purpose shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the Oyster Replenishment Fund, to be used only for (i) administration of the program, ~~and~~ (ii) for oyster replenishment projects, including recycling, planting, and replanting the public oyster rocks, beds, and shoals of the Commonwealth, with seed oysters, oyster shells, or other material that will catch, support, and grow oysters and oyster populations, and (iii) to encourage donations of oyster shells for such oyster replenishment projects. These funds shall be withdrawn and expended for such purposes on the order of the Commission. Expenditures and disbursements from the Fund shall be made by the State Treasurer on warrant of the Comptroller issued on vouchers signed by persons designated by the Commission.

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